Recommendations of Sukhatankar Committee

3286. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has appointed Sukhatankar Committee to go into details of issues pending for decision in Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of that Committee;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to implement the recommendations of Sukhatankar Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry had constituted two Committees under the Chairmanship of Shri D. M. Sukhatankar, *viz.*, the first "to guide the study on the Status of Coastal Regulation Zone undertaken by Centre for Earth Science, Thiruvananthapuram and to draw up a draft framework of a National Coastal Zone Policy" in March, 2000 and the second "to examine issues relating to Coastal Zone Management in the Mumbai urban area" in May, 2000.

(b) to (e) With regard to the first committee above, the main recommendations included construction of Slum Rehabilitation Scheme Projects, reconstruction of dilapidated buildings etc. with higher Floor Space Index (FSI) then that existed as on 19.2.1991. The Ministry did not accept this report, since the recommendations were not in accordance with Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. The draft report of the second committee above was placed before the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry in June, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, "To review the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991". The report of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee has since been accepted by the Ministry and necessary steps initiated for implementing the recommendations.

Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species

3287. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent it is a fact that at the recent Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting at Hauge, China actively lobbied for tiger farms and possibility of trade in tiger parks;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to counter China's stand on the issue in order to protect the tiger population in the country and also to stop use of bones in medicines in view of trade in tiger products banned since 1993; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Issues relating to trade and conservation of Asian Big Cats, *inter alia*, was discussed as an agenda item in the 14th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at Hague (June, 2007). The report of the CITES Management Authority, People's Republic of China, while highlighting their ban on trade in tiger bones, also indicated the efforts taken to promote artificial breeding of tigers having a future potential to reopen utilization of tiger

body parts, apart from providing breeding stocks for reintroduction and restoration of wild tiger in China.

(b) and (c) India made an intervention in the said meeting, appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized. Further, India also introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. This was adopted as a decision with minor amendments.

Pollution in four metros

3288. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of pollution prevailing in the four metros of the country;

(b) the main reasons for the present level of pollution in these cities;

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the level of pollution;

(d) whether any special funds have been earmarked for these schemes; and

(e) the steps being taken to educate the people about pollution hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The status of air pollution in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai is regularly monitored in terms of National Ambient Air Quality Standards by the Central Pollution Control Board. The air quality in residential areas of all four metro cities in terms of specified criteria pollutants, namely, Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen is within the normative limits as per the information available for last three calender years *i.e.* 2005, 2006 and 2007. As for the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), the air quality is observed to be within the norms in Chennai, while in case of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, it exceeds the prescribed standards.

The main reasons for the present level of the air pollution in these four metro cities are rapid urbanization, increase in use of Diesel Generator Sets and number of vehicles besides presence of natural dust in the air.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps to reduce pollution which, *inter alia*, include enforcement of stricter auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at the manufacturing stage, use of improved fuel quality, sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke two and three wheelers, monitoring of exhaust emission for in-use vehicle through "Pollution under Control (PUC)" Certificate System, Stringent diesel generator set emission norms and implementation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in industry through concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

An amount of Rs. 500 lacs has been earmarked during 2008-09 for ambient air quality monitoring across the country.

(e) The 'Environmental Education Awareness and Training' Scheme is under implementation with a view to enhance the understanding and awareness and to educate people at all levels for conservation and protection of the environment in the country. This is an ongoing Scheme to fulfil the following objectives: